



# Cuba

## The Legal Framework and the Defence System

### National Legislation

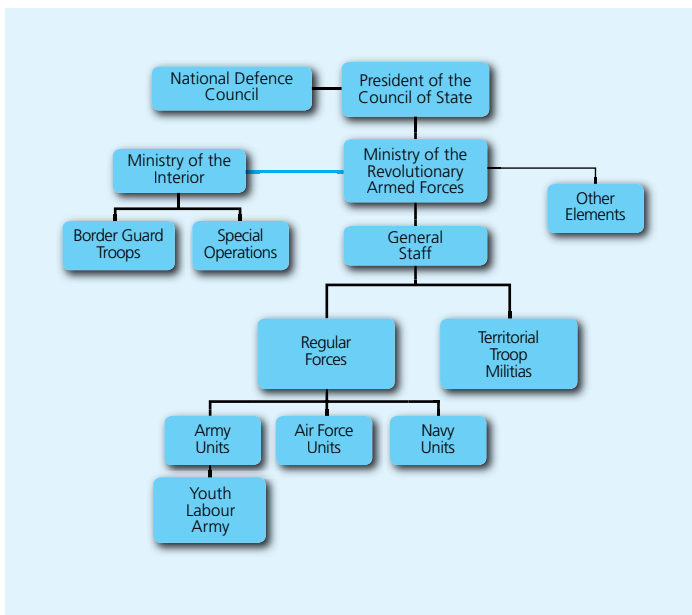
#### Systems and Concepts

- Decree Law on the Organization of the State's Central Administration (DL N° 67 - 1983/04/19. Last amendment: DL N° 282 - 2011/05/21).
- National Defence Act (N° 75 - 1994/12/21).
- Civil Measure System Act (N° 170 - 1997/05/08).

#### Military Organization

- Military Penal Procedure Act (N° 6 - 1977/08/08).
- Military Crime Act (N° 22 - 1979/02/15).
- Decree Law on Social Security for Expatriates performing Civil or Military Missions (N° 90 - 1985/12/02).
- Decree Law of Social Security for the Revolutionary Armed Forces (N° 101 - 1988/02/24. Last amendment: DL N° 222 - 2001/08/14).
- Act of Military Courts (N° 97 - 2002/12/21).
- Act of Military Prosecution (N° 101 - 2006/06/10).

Source: Compilation based on the legislation above mentioned.



### Functions

#### Branches of Government

The National Defence Council is established and prepared during times of peace to conduct the country under conditions of state of war, during a war, in the general mobilization or state of emergency. During exceptional situations it is the highest organ of state and political power. It is presided over by the President of the Council of State, and it also includes the First Vice President of the Council of State, and five more members appointed by the Council of State at the President's proposal. The Provincial, Municipal and Zone Defence Councils are established and prepared during times of peace to conduct operations in their respective territories, under conditions of state of war, during a war, the general mobilization or state of emergency.

The system also includes the Committees for the Defence of the Revolution, as a territorial organization of the masses whose objective is to mobilize the whole population in the efforts for the defence of the Revolution

The National Assembly of People's Power has the Powers granted by the Constitution and is permanently involved with defence related issues through the National Defence Committee.

#### Ministry Level

The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces is the organization in charge of directing, executing and controlling the enforcement of the Government and State policy for preparing the country for their defence, the defence of sovereignty and the preparation and accomplishment of the armed struggle.

#### Military Level

The General Staff assists the Minister in the conduction of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias*).

The Revolutionary Armed Forces are the basic military institution of the Government. They are made up of the regular troops and the Territorial Troop Militias (*Milicias de Tropas Territoriales*). The regular troops include ground, air and maritime units. The Youth Labour Army (*Ejército Juvenil del Trabajo*) is part of the ground troops of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The Army is the territorial grouping of forces and resources of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. It has a Military Council, made up of the Chief of the Army, the Presidents of the Provincial Defence Councils of the Army territory and other members appointed by the Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. The Provincial and Municipal Staffs are military organs that are subordinate to the Chief of the Army of the respective territories.

Some organs under the Ministry of the Interior, such as the Border Guard Troops and Special Operations, are part of the Territorial Defensive System and accomplish the missions imposed by the corresponding Defence Councils and the organs and directorates of the Ministry of the Interior, in accordance with the plans approved for exceptional situations.

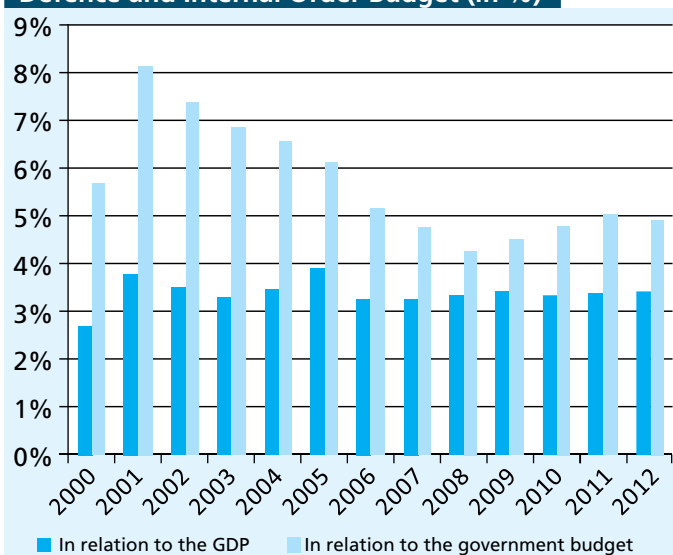
The Production and Defence Brigades (*Brigadas de Producción y Defensa*) constitute the armed organization of the Zone Defence Council, and are responsible for developing the mass participation of citizens in the War of All the People (*Guerra de Todo el Pueblo*).

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley de Defensa Nacional* (N° 75 - 1994/12/21) and websites of the Cuban Government.

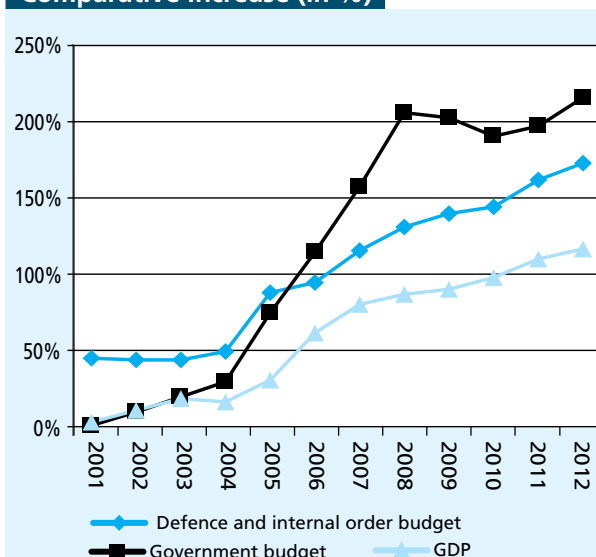
## The Budget

Year	Defence and Internal Order Budget		Government Budget		GDP	
	Domestic Currency	US\$	Domestic Currency	US\$	Domestic Currency	US\$
2000	879,600,000	36,650,000	15,587,400,000	649,475,000	32,685,000,000	1,361,875,000
2001	1,273,800,000	53,075,000	15,771,000,000	657,125,000	33,819,800,000	1,409,158,333
2002	1,261,800,000	52,575,000	17,193,200,000	716,383,333	36,089,100,000	1,503,712,500
2003	1,267,300,000	52,804,167	18,622,400,000	775,933,333	38,624,900,000	1,609,370,833
2004	1,316,500,000	54,854,167	20,241,400,000	843,391,667	38,203,000,000	1,591,791,667
2005	1,649,700,000	68,737,500	27,156,400,000	1,131,516,667	42,643,800,000	1,776,825,000
2006	1,707,900,000	71,162,500	33,326,500,000	1,388,604,167	52,742,800,000	2,197,616,667
2007	1,892,400,000	78,850,000	39,992,600,000	1,666,358,333	58,603,900,000	2,441,829,167
2008	2,021,600,000	84,233,333	47,493,100,000	1,978,879,167	60,806,300,000	2,533,595,833
2009	2,098,900,000	87,454,167	46,907,600,000	1,954,483,333	62,078,610,000	2,586,608,750
2010	2,140,100,000	89,170,833	45,013,400,000	1,875,558,333	64,328,200,000	2,680,341,667
2011	2,293,500,000	95,562,500	46,034,100,000	1,918,087,500	68,233,900,000	2,843,079,167
2012	2,386,600,000	99,441,667	48,967,000,000	2,040,291,667	70,553,852,600	2,939,743,858

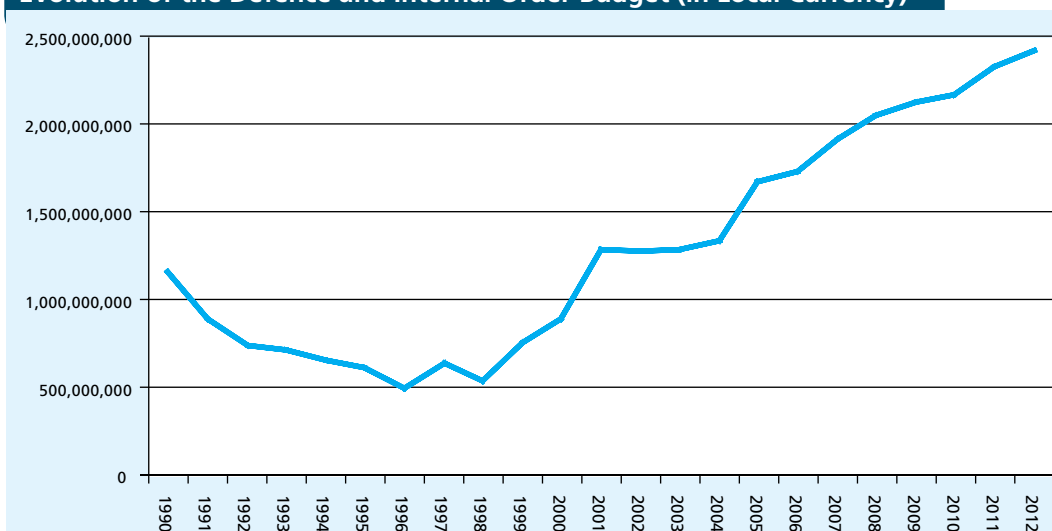
## Defence and Internal Order Budget (in %)



## Comparative Increase (in %)



## Evolution of the Defence and Internal Order Budget (in Local Currency)



The average budget for defence and internal order in the 1990s was \$716,530,000 Cuban Pesos. In the 2000s, the average was \$1,536,950,000 Cuban Pesos.

**Source:** Compilation based on *Anuario Estadístico de Cuba* (1995-2010 annual reports) and *Panorama Económico y Social, Cuba 2011*, National Statistical Office, Republic of Cuba. Figures are taken from executed State budget (2010 and 2011 still show estimated figures), 2012: State Budget Act, GDP 2012: Estimation made by the chairs of the State Council and the Council of Ministers, Exchange rate: 1 Cuban Peso = US\$24.



**Political Definitions**

**Policy Guidelines**

The Republic of Cuba builds its national defence on its aspirations of fair, true and valid peace for all States, based on the respect for the people's independence and sovereignty and the right to self-determination, as well as on its commitment to the principles consecrated in the United Nations Charter and other international treaties Cuba is a party to.

The Cuban people have endured, since their very origins, a constant threat to their security and territorial integrity. Thus, in line with their patriotic sentiment and more vigorous courage upon the victory of the Revolution in January 1959, the country has actively been involved in its own defence and the conquest of socialism, following the experiences of the Mambi Army and the Rebel Army, massively integrating, since their creation, to the militias of workers, farmers and students as well as to the rendering of military service.

**Cuban Military Doctrine**

It is defined as the set of scientifically grounded ideas and concepts adopted by the State in relation to the essence, objectives, nature, particularities and consequences of war; the country's preparation to engage in it successfully and try to avoid it; and the methods applied to conduct and direct it in order to confront a military aggression.

Military doctrine is based on deterrence: it understands that the political, material and human cost of a military aggression against Cuba would be prohibitive and, consequently, would lack any perspective of success.

**War of All the People**

It is the basis of the military doctrine. It is understood as the strategic defensive conception of the country and it is based on the deployment of the territorial defensive system.

**Territorial Defensive System**

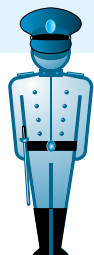
Set of political, economic, military, legal, security, internal order and civil defence measures and activities organized and performed in times of peace by State bodies and organizations, economic entities, social institutions and citizens, in the different levels of the political-administrative sector with the aim of guaranteeing the defence of the country.

Cuba is territorially organized into 15 provinces and 168 municipalities.

The mission of the defence zones is to conduct the armed fight in their areas; support the actions of regular troops and Territorial Troop Militias; maintain the internal order; protect the civil population; ensure the stability of production and services, guarantee the provision of supplies and the preservation of life. Production and Defence Brigades are organized and a Council of Defence, integrated by voluntary civilians, operates in each area.

**Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces**

On October 16th, 1959, the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces was created in accordance with Law N° 600 of the Council of Ministers. This Ministry brings together the Rebel Army, the Revolutionary Navy and the National Revolutionary Police.



Army Corps General Leopoldo Cintra Frías.

**Current minister:**



Army Corps General Julio Casas Regueiro (2008 – 2011).



General Raúl Castro (1959 – 2008).



Augusto Martínez Sánchez (1959).

**Previous ministers:**

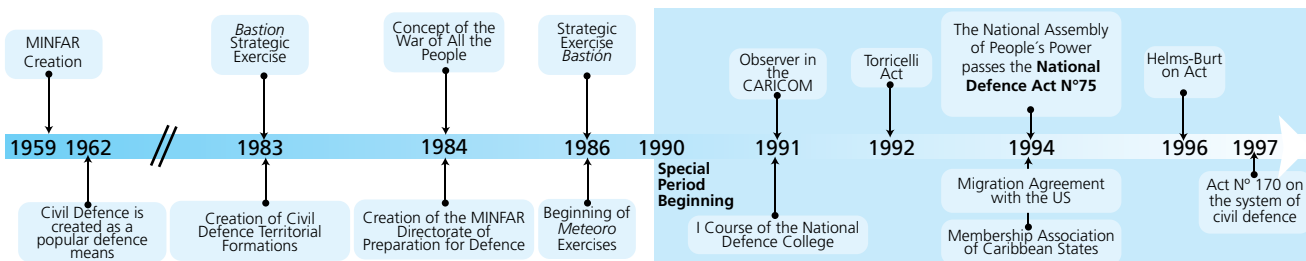
Source: *Ley de la defensa nacional* (N° 75 – 1994/21/12). Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Informe Cuba vs. Bloqueo 2009*.

**Foreign and Defence Policy**

Cuba's foreign and defence policies are focused on the need to concentrate resources to ensure the survival of the nation's independence and of its political, social and economic system in the light of the US opposition against its continuation in the island. Thus, territorial defence and deterrence, in particular, are key strategic aspects of the War of all the People and the central pillar of Cuba's defence policy, aimed at mobilizing the defensive capacity of the State and the population to conduct attrition warfare against any enemy who sets out to invade the country.

This mobilization of natural resources for defence represents a unique case in the Hemisphere where no other country has faced a similar kind of threat from a source of such magnitude and for such an extended period. The size of the mandatory military service, the nature and number of stand-by forces, the make-up of police and military forces, and other security forces and its agencies, reflect this state of affairs.

In the meantime, cooperation with the United States has been successful, sustainable and impressive in areas of concern for both countries' security. Though they are officially "enemies", both countries cooperate closely with each other on actions against drug-trafficking and illegal immigration. They have also worked jointly and discreetly, often unofficially, in providing humanitarian aid in disasters affecting other countries; as well as in managing the US naval base in Guantanamo; in building confidence through the control of US aircraft overflying the island; and in a limited exchange of weather information, especially related to hurricanes that may impact one of the countries or both. The US Coast Guard Service even has an officer in the US Interests Section in Havana to supervise these situations. (1)



**The Armed Forces and the Economy (2)**

During the last years, the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) have increased their role in Cuban economy. The needs arising during the "special period" and the needs to streamline the economy have accelerated this trend towards participation.

Significant elements of the economy are under the control of the Forces or coordinated by military officers who are on duty or retired.

Many of the most dynamic economic sectors - tourism, agricultural products, tobacco, among others- are managed by the FAR.

The main example within this economic scheme is the **Military Industrial Union (UIM)**, whose mission is to ensure the repair of armament and the technology applied in FAR ground, air and sea units. The General Repair Base system and other industrial companies have facilities all across the country (12 industries operating in 16 facilities throughout the island, located in 8 of the 14 provinces - Santiago, Camagüey, Sancti Spiritus, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Matanzas, Habana, and La Habana city). It includes large workshops specialized in tanks, artillery, aviation, naval aspects, radio communications, transportation, radars and metallurgic production.

**The FARs are present in other main sectors:**

- Habanos S.A.:** exporter and distributor of Cuban tobacco abroad. Comercio Interior y Mercado Exterior: initially, this company focused on imports and exports. It has expanded to businesses operating in dollars (supermarkets, gas stations, car rentals, travel agencies, real estate and cable and satellite television services).
- Industria Cítrica:** mixed company held by the Cuban Government, mainly consisting of the Youth Labour Army, and an Israeli company.
- Instituto Nacional de la Reserva Estatal (INRE):** supervises national strategic reserves in case of emergency pursuant to Section 128 of the national defence Law.
- GAESA (Grupo de Administración Empresarial S.A.):** assets and currency management mainly.
- Unión Agropecuaria Militar:** founded in 1990, composed of farms and food production centers.

**Main other firms with military management**

<b>Aero Gaviota</b> (Airline/Tourism).
<b>Agrotex</b> (Agriculture).
<b>Almest</b> (Tourism/Real Estate).
<b>Antex</b> (Technical Consultancy).
<b>Almacén Universal</b> (Free Trade Zone).
<b>Complejo Histórico – Militar Morro Cabaña</b> (Military museum/Monuments).
<b>Cubanacán</b> (Tourism).
<b>División Financiera</b> (Stores for the Collection of Currencies – TRD)
<b>Gaviota S.A.</b> (Tourism).
<b>Geo Cuba</b> (Cartography/Real Estate/ Mining Interests).
<b>Sasa S.A.</b> (Automobile service and Spare Parts).
<b>Sermar</b> (Exploration in Cuban waters/ naval repairs).
<b>Tecnotex</b> (Imports/Exports).

1.The Interests Section (USINT) represents US citizens and government in Cuba and operates under the legal protection of the Swiss government.  
 2.The economic crisis arising in the 1990s has led to constant changes in the role of the Revolutionary Armed Forces in the Cuban economy. This section is only a brief summary of such role.

**Source:** Compilation based on the websites of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and Cuba Transition Project.

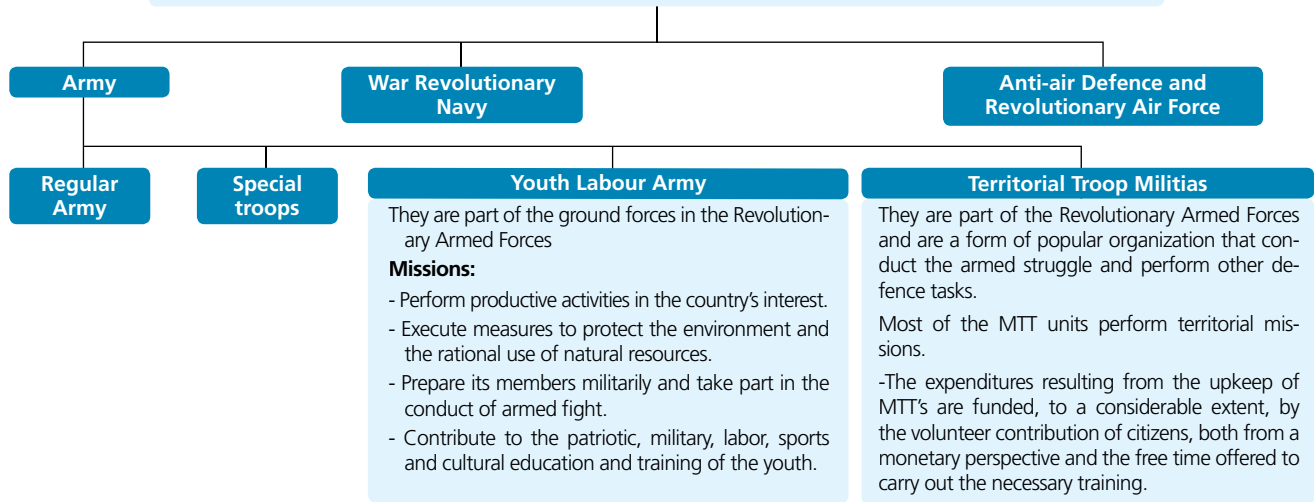


### The Revolutionary Armed Forces

#### General Mission

The Revolutionary Armed Forces are the main military institution of the State, whose main mission is to combat the aggressor from the very first moment and then, with the entire people, conduct the war during the time necessary, under any circumstance, until the victory is attained.

(Ley de Defensa Nacional, N° 75 – 1994/12/21, Sec. 34).



#### Military Service

##### Active Military Service

It is performed at the units or detachments of the Revolutionary Armed Forces or at the Ministry of the Interior for a two-year period. The MINFAR may decide to replace the period of service for an alternative service, provided that military training is guaranteed. Both men and women who wish and expressly indicate their desire, may voluntarily join if they meet the proper requirements. The main mission is to provide men and women with the proper training and perfect physical fitness. Training centres exist at the various military units which provide a basic 5-week course to members called up.

**Under the National Defence Act, military service is mandatory for all male citizens and voluntary for women.**

##### Reservist Military Service

It involves the performance by male citizens (up to 45 years of age) of tasks relating to defence preparedness; to that end, they may be mobilized as many times as necessary, provided that the total time does not exceed one year. It is used to complete regular troops. Some of the combat means are kept in times of peace; only a minimum number of personnel is kept, particularly in those positions that require greater specialization and training.



#### Single surveillance and security system

In 1991, at the beginning of the special test periods, a single surveillance and security system was designed. It coordinates the efforts against subversion led by the MININT, the National Policy.

Cuba considers it is a normal arrangement given the conflict with the United States, and therefore sees it as an integral part of its revolutionary defence system, state security and defence committees of the revolution (neighborhood volunteers), and other State organizations.

#### Set of Strategic Exercises Bastión

Military exercise, carried out every two years, to train in the defence of the Island. It includes maneuvers, tactical and command exercises, with troops on site, including movements of force and means, artillery practice and aviation flights. About 100,000 Cubans, from the 14 provinces, are involved in this exercise. Their objective is to learn about such questions to be improved while evaluating the people's involvement in defense tasks.

Source: Compilation based on Ley de la defensa nacional (N° 75 – 1994/12/21) and the web site of Cuba Defence (Cubadefensa).

### Military Education and Training

#### Interarmas School General Antonio Maceo

Army. 1963. La Habana.

#### Interarmas School General José Maceo

Army. 1980. Santiago de Cuba.

#### Naval Academy Granma

War Navy. 1916, 1959, 1987. La Habana.

#### Military Technical Institute José Martí

Aviation. 1967.

Its purpose is the education and training of senior, middle and basic level officers in the command and technical profiles, and the extended education and post-graduate training, according to the requirements of the Party, the State and the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

#### Missions:

- Educate officers loyal to the Motherland, the Communist Party of Cuba and the State, with a high communist and internationalist conscience, a profound hatred towards imperialism, a high sense of responsibility, discipline and military ethics as well as command and direction qualities and the knowledge and professional abilities that may enable them to fulfill their missions in times of war and peace in the different specialties and levels.
- Organize and conduct the training and education of subordinate personnel.
- Provide an update to officers regarding scientific and technological and military breakthroughs. Support their training for their appointment to higher positions or other specialties.
- Train officers and PhD in military science.
- Become advocates of military traditions, ethics, regulatory order, discipline, reputation and military posture and hygiene, as part of the officers' education and advancement process.
- Conduct scientific research.

2012:  
over 700  
graduates



- Officer of the Revolutionary Army and Bachelor in military sciences or Bachelor in social sciences or Military Engineer or Engineer in Means.

2012:  
over 200  
graduates



- War Navy Officer and Bachelor in naval sciences, Bachelor in naval sciences, Radio-electric engineer, Mechanical engineer and Hydrography and geodesy engineer.

2012:  
over 400  
graduates



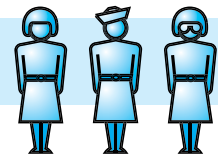
-Radio-electronic engineer, IT engineer, Mechanical engineer, Pilot and navigator and air traffic controller.

#### Camilo Cienfuegos Military Schools

The first school of this kind was opened in 1966 as a result of a call for the provision of primary and secondary education. In 1977, pre-university education was introduced. At present, young men and women with a basic secondary education (nine grades) who wish to be trained as officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) may enter these pre-university military vocational schools. The Camilo Cienfuegos Military Schools are subordinated to the FAR; there are 14 schools around the entire country. Admission is selective and the plans and curriculum programs are similar to those of the Ministry of Education and tailored to the specific and vocational interests of military life. Students graduate in science and literature. Graduates can be directly admitted to military academies where FAR cadre is trained.

The **Escuela Militar Superior** (Higher Military School) was founded in 1983 to prepare officers with a legal profile

In Cuba, the introduction of women responds to a political and social objective "in the struggle for equality and to raise their level of military training for the defence of the socialist Motherland".



The **National Defence College** was founded in 1990 as a higher education centre under the scope of the MINFAR. It is responsible for post-graduate education of main civilian and military cadre of the country in relation to the concept and development of national security and defence.

#### Its missions include:

- Carry out and develop the educational and teaching process for programs and specialty training on national security and defence.
- Provide national and territorial defence training courses.
- Take part in the elaboration of the regulatory basis for the un-armed component of the struggle and guiding documents of the FAR Ministry for the education and training on national and territorial defence for the country's cadre and officials as well as for defence leadership agencies.
- Elaborate territorial defence training programs provided in state schools on defence training aimed at cadre and officials in provinces, cities and defence zones
- Recommend curriculum content for national defence training at higher FAR and other teaching institutions in the country.
- Prepare instructors who teach national defence at FAR and other teaching institutions of the country.

#### Main courses:

- Specialty in National Defence and Security.
- Bachelor in National Defence and Security
- Refresher Course.

The **FAR Academy** was founded in 1963 to train officers on the latest scientific-technological and military advancements as well as to prepare them to take higher positions in their career.

#### Main courses:

- Tactical Command and Staff First-Grade Specialties.
- Tactical-Operational Second-Grade Command and Staff.
- Operational-Strategic Command and Staff Third-Grade Specialties.

The **Universidad de Ciencias Médicas de las FAR** (FAR University of Medical Sciences) was created in 1981 and uses the central military hospital facilities and policlinics of the national health system, as well as FAR medical units. It has special classrooms and practice areas.

Students graduate as Doctors in Medicine with a specialty as General Integral Basic Military Physician.

Source: Compilation based on the *Ley de la defensa nacional* (Nº 75 – 1994/12/21), web sites of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and of Defence of Cuba, Cubadefensa.



### Civil Defence

Cuba is conceived "as a system of defensive measures of state nature". Those measures are executed in peace times and in exceptional situations to protect the population and the national economy in the event of natural disasters or other type of contingencies, including those caused by environmental deterioration.

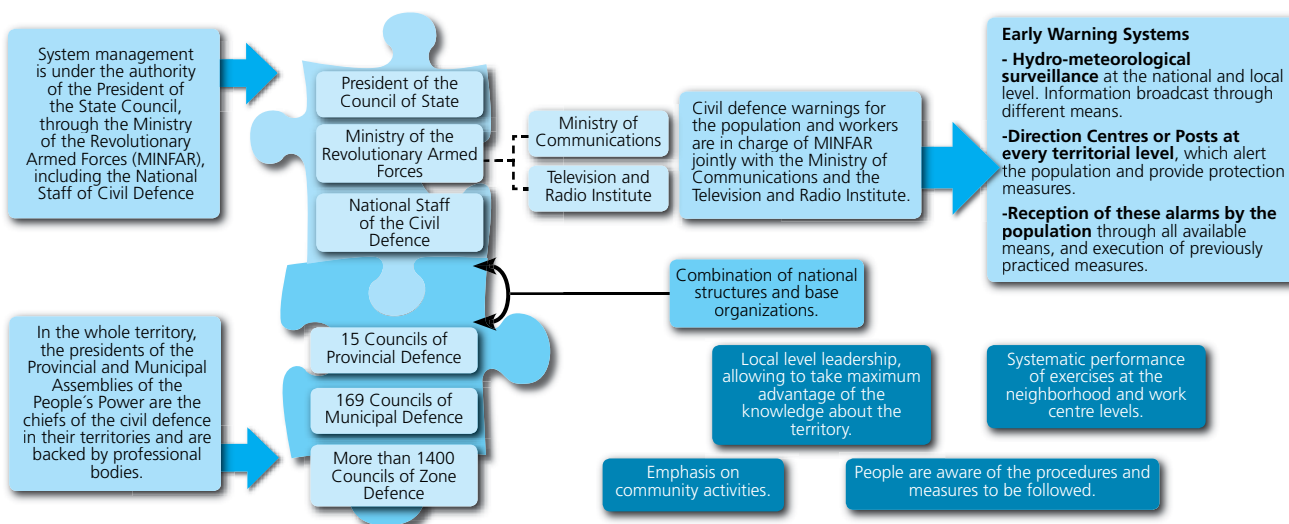
The Cuban territory is organized into 15 provinces. Within each province, the conception and practice of the Defence Councils in the defence areas are key in case of disasters. In exceptional situations, in the municipalities, more than 1,400 defence zones are activated; these zones have been the basis of the territorial defence structure since 1984.



#### Civil Defence Principles

- Direction at the highest level
- Multi-faceted protection
- National and institutional scope.
- Differentiated form for protection planning and organization.
- Effective cooperation with the Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior
- Organization consistent with the country's socioeconomic development.

The defence areas, in exceptional situations, become the ultimate State representative bodies, thus assuming authority in these territories



#### National Staff of the Civil Defence

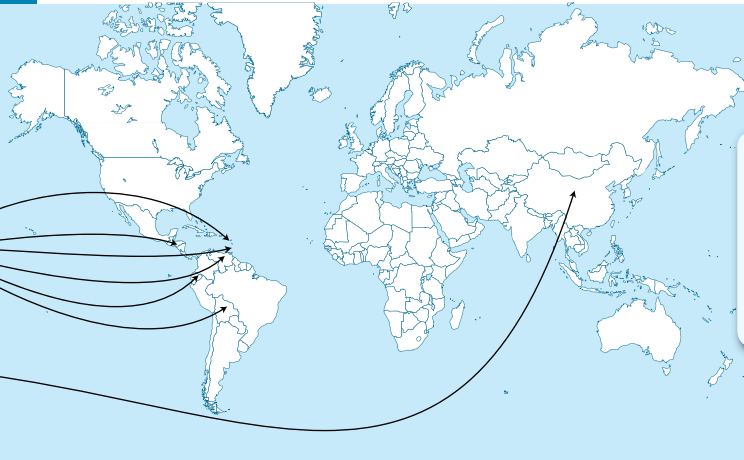
It is the system's main body in charge of ensuring compliance with civil defence measures, rules and international agreements related to civil protection to which the Cuban Republic is a party; it is also in charge of coordinating international cooperation and aid in catastrophes. It maintains work relations and close and fluent cooperation with institutions committed to human life and environment protection and with the mass media as well. Likewise, it coordinates its actions and closely cooperates with non-governmental organizations, such as the Cuban Red Cross, the International Red Cross, Red Crescent organizations and others, which provide humanitarian aid in case of disaster.

Source: Compilation based on the website of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces; National Staff of the Civil Defence, and of Defence of Cuba, Cubadefensa. Guide for the conduct of risk analysis for disaster response, 2005. Ley del sistema de medidas de defensa civil (Nº 170 – 1997/05/08).

## Links with other countries

Since the end of the connection with the Soviet Union in 1991, there is no single dominating defence relationship in Cuba, but rather limited cooperation agreements with the ALBA countries, especially with Venezuela, to deal with natural disasters, VIP security and some shared defence courses.

China is the number one equipment supplier of the FAR, especially in military transport vehicles.

**Military Attaches:**

Latin American countries that have military attaches in Cuba include Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

## Analysis:

## The Military in the Structures of the Cuban Government

**Rafael Hernández**

*Political Scientist. Editor of Temas magazine.*

Some analysts believe that after Fidel Castro stepped down (2006) and handed over the presidency to General Raul Castro, the Revolutionary Armed Forces (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias, FAR) have become the key institution in the transition. This assumption does not refer to the FAR's historical role as the pillar of Cuban power structure where most of its leaders have come from since 1959, but on their increased specific weight in today's main structures under Raul's leadership. However, this thesis is not often supported by empirical evidence.

The top organizations of the Cuban system include the Political Bureau (BP) of the Cuban Communist Party (PCC), the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, the Council of Ministers (CM), the Cuban Communist Party's Central Committee (CC), the Council of State, the senior leadership of the PCC (First Secretaries) appointed in each province and the National Assembly of People's Power. Let's examine the proportion of military members in most of these structures.

At the Political Bureau of the PCC, 29% accounts for members of the military who hold positions related to defence and security. However, all of these officers – and two of the three military members in public office, including Raul Castro himself – were already in the Political Bureau before he took office. Of the three newly-appointed members of the BP elected during the 6th Congress of the PCC (February, 2011), only one is a uniformed member, the incumbent Minister of Economy; while the Vice-president of the Council of Ministers, in charge of the entire national economy, is a civilian, and the third official is a woman appointed as Secretary of the PCC in Habana. The seven members of the Secretariat, representing the second level of command in the Communist Party, are also civilians.

As to the Council of Ministers, 17% accounts for military personnel in active duty; only one of them, the Minister of the FAR, is new in his position. Six members of this council come from the armed institutions and hold civilian positions, but only three of them were appointed by Raúl. Most of

the military officers in civilian positions (21% of the CM) are engineers who are in charge of those departments because of their engineering background (Transportation, Basic Industry, etc.). Considering that most of the CM's members in the present government were appointed by Raúl, it is worth noting that the number of military appointees is much lower than the number of civilians. Most key positions in the sector of the economy (CM's vice-president responsible for reforms, Foreign Trade & Foreign Investment, Tourism, Foreign Trade, Agriculture, Central Bank, Finance & Pricing, Light Industry, Comptroller, etc.) are taken by civilians; as well as other strategic departments (Justice, Foreign Affairs, Health, Education). In fact, one vice-president of the Council of Ministers (a senior member) and a recently-appointed Minister of Communications, both members of the military, were relieved from duty last year and replaced by civilians.

Actually, engineering is the most popular profession in the Cuban government, accounting for 46% of government, including both military and civilians. Economists and engineers, with an average age of 59, make up 71% of Raúl Castro's Executive staff.

If we consider that two of the three youngest members of the Political Bureau (BP) came from the PCC's leadership in the provinces, we can conclude that it is currently one of the main channels for party promotion. The makeup of First Secretaries of the Communist Party of Cuba in each of the fifteen provinces, including the special municipality of the Isle of Youth, is characterized by the absence of military members and the high proportion of engineers and economists.

Finally, only 8.1% of the National Assembly's deputies are uniformed personnel.

These figures do not intend to diminish the role of the military in a government led by a General, or to reduce their historical importance as a pool of political cadre in the system. However, it helps us to adequately put them in perspective, as elements of a State and of much more complex power structures.